MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 NOVEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

Tripoli Military Situation — "Violent" clashes took place in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, on the morning of 17 November following the capture of Al-Baddawi camp by forces opposed to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat the previous day, Beirut radio reported. The radio said 'Arafat announced a cease-fire on all fronts, but AFP quoted him as saying his forces will "fight to the end." Fatah dissident spokesman Mahmud al-Labadi said in Damascus that the opposition forces will cease fighting and will not enter Tripoli if 'Arafat remains "quiet," Radio Monte Carlo reported. An As-Sa'iqah official cited by Voice of Palestinian Revolution radio in Turbul accused 'Arafat's forces of "trying to move the battle to the city of Tripoli by deliberately shelling the revolution's positions." The opposition does not want to endanger the security and safety of the city and holds the "'Arafat gangs" fully responsible for their provocations, he stated.

'Arafat's opponents captured over 30 loyalist fighters when they overran Al-Baddawi but hundreds of 'Arafat's men managed to escape to Tripoli, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon and Voice of Lebanon radio. An officer loyal to 'Arafat confirmed the fall of Al-Baddawi but said loyalist fighters remain on the southern outskirts of the camp, AFP noted. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio did not announce the fall of the camp but spoke of "grinding" battles between attackers and defenders. Turbul Voice of Palestinian Revolution and SANA claimed that Palestinian civilians in Al-Baddawi welcomed the arrival of the anti-'Arafat forces.

Related Developments — The Northern Coordination Committee, in a statement broadcast by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon, demanded a total cease-fire in and around Tripoli and stressed the need for a dialogue between the warring sides. The Syrian Arab Deterrent Force should take action to ensure that the city is not shelled, the statement added. Meanwhile, in a message carried by SPA, Saudi King Fahd appealed for an end to the fratricide in northernLebanon, which he described as "heartbreaking" and unjustifiable. Fahd and the amirs of Kuwait and Qatar agreed to continue GCC mediation efforts, Kuwait radio reported. In another development, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Paris to discuss the situation with French officials, according to TAP.

Calls for 'Arafat's Departure — The dissidents' radio station at Turbul reported that calls for 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli were made by the commander of As-Sa'iqah and by Lebanese "national and progressive" representatives meeting at Halba, northeast of Tripoli.

A commentary carried by the pro-'Arafat San'a' Voice of Palestine radio denied Western descriptions of Tripoli as 'Arafat's last stronghold, asserting that the PLO has strongholds all over the world.

Lebanon

Political Developments — Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam departed for Damascus 16 November after meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil, according to Beirut and Damascus radios. Speaking at a press conference, reported by Beirut radio and SANA, Khaddam said that the two leaders agreed on "practical measures" to end cease-fire violations and a "high-level meeting" of "responsible military men of the parties concerned" to discuss the cease-fire. Radio Free Lebanon, citing "informed sources," announced that a high-level Lebanese military delegation would go to Damascus on 17 November.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, in an interview with the magazine *MONDAY MORNING*, declared that a government of national unity is "imperative and inevitable," adding that the existing government's status, based on the fact that its resignation has been placed at the president's disposal, cannot continue indefinitely.

According to the Voice of Lebanon radio, a three-man Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) delegation visited Israel to meet with Druze leaders, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and IDF intelligence officials. The report said the Israelis asked that the PSP provide a report of Syrian weapons and personnel deployment in the Al-Biqa' and the mountain regions and that it "act to bring about the withdrawal of Palestinian elements and their bases," in return for which the Israelis agreed to military training for PSP personnel. On the other hand, Dr 'Atif Sallum, who is "considered to be" the PSP foreign minister and was reported to be a member of the delegation to Israel, told Israeli correspondents that "a rapprochement has occurred" between the PSP and Syria, according to the Tel Aviv newspaper *DAVAR*.

Security officials at Beirut airport refused to allow 12 Soviet experts, who were supposed to repair the damaged Soviet Embassy building in Beirut, to enter the country on the grounds that their secret mission was to observe the Multinational Forces' movements, particularly the U.S. Marines, the Kuwaiti paper *AS-SIYASAH said*.

Military Developments — Beirut International Airport was shelled on 16 November, according to Beirut radio. Beirut and its suburbs and villages to the north and south were shelled, with some shells falling near the Foreign Ministry, the Presidential Palace, and the U.S. ambassador's residence, the radio reported. Radio Free Lebanon maintained that it had monitored a "contact" between the Syrian deputy prime minister's office and Syrian military intelligence that contained an "official Syrian demand" for "intensive firing at Lebanese official centers" in retaliation for the "Lebanese official stand."

During the 16 November Israeli air raids on camps in the Al-Biqa', 35 were killed and 80 wounded, while the Ash-Sha'rah camp was destroyed, Beirut radio reported. Jerusalem radio asserted that the raids "made it plain" to the "Iranian-oriented terrorists" that the IDF knows who attacked the Israeli headquarters in Tyre and the site from which the attack was launched. Damascus radio reported U.S. and Israeli overflights of Beirut and the nearby mountain areas, but Syrian media have not been observed to report the Israeli raids.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Officials Welcome Queen Elizabeth 17 November

BK170745 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Queen Elizabeth of Britain was given a ceremonial reception at Delhi airport on her arrival this afternoon on a 10-day state visit to India. A 21-gun salute boomed out as she alighted from a special plane and was received by the president, Giani Zail Singh, and the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi. The president presented a bouquet of flowers to her and the duke of Edinborough, who is accompanying her. Several Cabinet ministers, the service chiefs, members of parliament, and diplomats were present to greet them. After the national anthems of the two countries, the queen inspected a guard of honor presented by the contingents from the three armed services. The queen and Prince Philip later drove to Rashtrapati Bhavan where they are staying.

Statement Issued on Turkish Cypriot Assembly

BK161447 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1428 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] The following statement was made by the official spokesman in the early hours of 16th November:

"The Government of India have learnt [as received] with profound shock and concern the unilateral declaration of independence by the so-called Turkish Cypriot Assembly of the Turkish-occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus. They deplore this action which is in violation of the declaration of the Nonaligned Movement and the resolutions of the UN General Assembly on the question of Cyprus. The Government of India fully support the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus headed by President Kiprianou and demand the revocation of this unilateral declaration by the foreign occupied part of Cyprus. They support the continuation of the intercommunal talks which is the only way to an enduring and satisfactory solution of the Cyprus problem.

The Government of India are in contact with other nonaligned countries over this unfortunate development. The prime minister of India has personally been in touch with President Kiprianou."

Rao Notes 'Some Progress' in PRC Border Talks

BK170919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has said there has been some progress in the recent Sino-Indian official level talks in New Delhi. He told the Lok Sabha today that besides the boundary question the talks covered other bilateral questions, including trade, cultural contacts, and exchange in the field of science and technology. On the boundary question an attempt has been made to evolve acceptable set of principles to serve as guidelines for future discussions. Mr Rao said differences on some vital aspects still remain. They will be taken up at the next round of talks.

Answering questions, Mr Rao said the question whether India favors a sector-by-sector approach to the problem is not significant. We have to see that the sector-by-sector approach does not lead to sector-by-sector dispute. The work is on to find a common approach to the draft proposals submitted by both the countries. This is being evolved and the stage of talks is granted.

The external affairs minister told the Lok Sabha that the United States has agreed to supply Pakistan with a number of military items, including forward area reconnaissance aircraft. The government is also aware of reports that a number of Harpoon missiles are being purchased by Pakistan from the United States.

Gandhi Notes Evidence of Pakistani Involvement

BK160939 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The prime minister reiterated in the Lok Sabha today that the government has the circumstantial evidence of involvement of Pakistani agents and others behind the recent disturbances in some parts of the country. Intervening during question hour, she said it is not advisable to make public the detailed information in this regard.

Mrs Gandhi said the country is facing a serious threat, which should be viewed in a wider perspective. Developments in Grenada and Cyprus are pointers to these threats, she added.

Deploring the opposition charge that she was creating a scare for her own political end, she said no useful discussions can take place if the opposition persists with such allegation. She counseled creation of an atmosphere in which the problems can be discussed in depth.

On a suggestion by a member for calling a meeting of opposition parties, the prime minister said this will not help as some opposition members themselves have written to her that their views are divergent. However, she has been meeting leaders of opposition parties separately from time to time, and the home minister has also held such meetings.

Answering a question, the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, told the House that some training camps were held in Jammu and Kashmir by Punjab extremists. Two such camps were also held in Himachal Pradesh and one in Uttar Pradesh. The government is aware of the seditious activities at these camps. State government has been advised to ensure that no arms training takes place.

Referring to the situation in Punjab after the imposition of president's rule, Mr Sethi said that there have been some incidents no doubt, but there are no reports of large-scale crimes. He said 4,000 people have been arrested and a number of arms recovered. Checkposts have been set up and mobile patrolling has been intensified.

The minister told that a close watch is being maintained to see that no foreign involvement adds to the problems of the problems of the state.

Replying to a debate on the presidential proclamation bringing Punjab under central rule in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Sethi outlined the efforts made by the government to solve the Punjab problems and referred to the various rounds of talks held in the past. He mentioned the various announcements made by the prime minister for the settlement of religious demands and appointment of Sarkaria Commission on center-state relations. He said that he had extended several invitations to the Akalis for talks but they did not respond positively to his offer.

Punjab Governor Clarifies 'Foreign Hands' Remark
BK161629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr B.D. Pandey, has said that he had been misquoted and misunderstood on the reply he gave at a news conference in Jullundur yesterday on the question of foreign hands behind the incidents in the state. In a statement issued today, he clarified what he had said was that in view of the very sensitive nature of the subject and its international repercussions, whatever evidence has been received could not naturally be revealed.

Parliament Approves President's Rule in Punjab
BK161619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Parliament has approved the imposition of President's rule in Punjab. A resolution of the presidential proclamation was adopted by both the Houses today.

In the Rajya Sabha, a motion by Mr Shiv Chandra Jha, Janata, disapproving president's rule in the state was rejected.

Earlier, replying to the lengthy debate in both the Houses, the home minister reiterated that the government is keen on a peaceful solution of the Punjab problem and doors for negotiation are still open. He appealed to the Akali leaders to condemn violence and asked other political parties to persuade Akalis for resumption of talks.

Refuting the allegation that the government is not interested in solving the problem, Mr Sethi asserted that his party's government would not have been dismissed when it enjoyed absolute majority in the state legislature. He praised the former chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, who put the welfare of the people and the country's interest above personal and party considerations and resigned in view of the situation, which had serious implications for the nation as a whole.

Mr Sethi assured members that the only intention in promulgating president's rule was to bring about normalcy as early as possible and it will not be prolonged beyond what is absolutely necessary.

Replying to opposition criticism about the manner in which president's rule was imposed, the minister said there was nothing wrong in the chief minister tendering the advise to the government. Moreover, there is nothing to suggest that the governor did not act in his own discretion. He said there has been such a precedent when the Uttar Pradesh chief minister resigned in 1973.

The home minister said an entirely wrong impression has been created that he was in favor of his party forming a government in Punjab with the Akali Del. He told that what he said in the recent meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee for his ministry was that the government is willing to seek cooperation of all parties, including the Akali Dal, in the smooth running of government and the early restoration of the democratic process.

During the discussion, opposition members urged the government to resume negotiations with the Akalis to find an early solution. They said that the government should adopt a political approach and not a law and order approach to settle the issue. Some of them demanded withdrawal of special powers given to the Army and police. Mr Sethi said that special powers are being used on a selective basis so that there is no harrassment to the public. He pointed out that the Armed Forces are subservient to the civil administration.

Mr Sethi turned down the demand by an opposition member for setting a high powered commission to inquire into the alleged discrimination against Sikhs. They occupy prominent positions, and there can be no question of discrimination against them by any strech of imagitation, he asserted.

Home Minister on Moves Against Sikh Leader
BK170935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The government will consider moving the court for declaring Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale as a proclaimed offender. This was stated by the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, while replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha. He said the state government has asked the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee from time to time to hand over Sant Bhindranwale, but no cooperation has been extended by the committee.

The home minister clarified there is no law which barred entry of law enforcement agencies into a place of worship. But no such step has been taken in regard to the Golden Temple,keeping in view the religious sentiments of the Sikhs.

Gandhi Denies Report on Tarapur Plutonium Theft
BK161005 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The prime minister denied in the Lok Sabha that any plutonium had been stolen from the Department of Atomic Energy at Tarapur. Answering a question, Mrs Gandhi said a newspaper report in this connection was misleading. She said a computer card of plutonium stock was maintained at every stage and adequate measures are there to ensure that there is no pilferage of nuclear material.

In reply to another question, Mrs Gandhi said the government has taken steps to constitute an atomic energy regulatory board to oversee the functioning of various plants.

Defense Minister Returns From European Tour

BK1711019 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] India has discussed several projects to produce a wide range of defense equipment in collaboration with France, Britain, Sweden, and Austria. Disclosing this to newsmen in New Delhi on return from a tour of these countries, the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, said Britain and France have offered technical collaboration to India to produce light combat aircraft and airborne early warning systems. The work is already on to design the engine of the aircraft. India is also working on the development of an airborne early warning system that would give advanced warning of approaching enemy aircraft long before it could be detected on radar. France has agreed to consider giving credit facilities to India in the case of Mirage 2000. From Britain, India would buy more Sea Harrier planes which would take off vertically and Sea Eagle missiles.

Mr Venkataraman also said that during his visit to Sweden and Austria possibilities of production of 155-mm guns and technical assistance in making radars was discussed.

Minutes Signed With GDR on Areas of Cooperation

BK1614O5 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] India and the German Democratic Republic have identified specific areas of cooperation. These include lignite mining, machine tools, wire industry and textile machinery, and electronics. Agreed minutes to this effect were signed in New Delhi today between the industry minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, and the GDR deputy prime minister, Dr Gerhard Weiss.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Tiwari expressed the hope that economic cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthed. Dr Gerhard Weiss in his speech said cooperation will benefit both the countries and will further enhance the spirit of understanding and ties of friendship.

Zia on Elections, Turkish State in Cyprus

BK161755 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said efforts are being made to meet the shortage of energy by using conventional sources but the permanent solution of the problem lies in the development of nuclear energy. He was speaking at the inauguration of the first 210-mw unit of the Bin Qasim power station near Karachi today. The president declared that Pakistan would continue to follow its nuclear energy program for peaceful purposes at all costs.

Before leaving Karachi for Islamabad, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq told newsmen that more members are being taken on the Majlis-i-Shoora. The names of some of the members will be announced tomorrow or the day after while more names will be announced later on.

The president said now that the local bodies elections were over, the next stage of elections will be taken in hand. In reply to a question, the president said the Election Commission has been asked to keep the electoral rolls up to date and be ready for the next stage of election. The president said the process would also keep the people ready for the elections. He said another guideline given to the Election Commission was to study various modes of elections including those on party or nonparty basis and proportional representation.

In reply to a question, the president said the law was ready for reopening of land reform cases. He said those who thought they had got away were mistaken and the law would get hold of them.

About his visit to Baluchistan, the president said he was happy to see the progress in development activities.

About the unilateral declaration of independence by Turkish Cypriots, the president said the Foreign Office was analyzing the situation and the official version of Pakistan will be known within a day or two.

Replying to another question, the president said he will, Inshallah [God willing], attend the next Islamic summit to be held in Rabat in January next year.

Envoy Meets With Turkish Officials at UN

BK161546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] A closed-door session of the UN Security Council reviewed the declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriot state [Mamlikat]. The session reviewed a resolution presented by Britain. The Security Council will deliberate on the issue at a plenary session within the next few days.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations, the Turkish envoy and the Turkish Cypriot delegate held separate meetings with Pakistani Ambassador S. Shah-nawaz.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas, who has left for New York, said that he will present his stand at the Security Council on the basis of equality with other countries.

Yaqub Khan Meets With Dobrynin in Washington

BK170918 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to the United States Anatoliy Dobrynin met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Washington last night. No official details on the meeting have been received. The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN correspondent however says that observers in Washington are attaching some importance to the meeting as it was held before the UN General Assembly debate on Afghanistan scheduled for next week.

THE MUSLIM Views Political Talks, Elections

GF152016 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Oct 83 p 1, 3

[Commentary by Ashraf Hashmi: "Leaders Unanimous on Early Polls, Political Freedom"]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 21: President Ziaul Haq in an attempt to arrive at a national consensus on major political issues confronting the country concluded the first round of his political parleys here today. The first round covered almost all the political parties outside MRD's fold. The last of the series was that of defunct Jama'at-e Islami [JI] whose six members team headed by the party's Amir Mian Tufail Mohammad met the president and his aides this evening and had a three and half hours in-depth discussion with him.

The parties which met the president during the first round of the political talks included Jamiat-ul Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP) Pir Pagara faction of Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Khaksar Tehrik, Jamiat-e Ahl-e Hadith, Progressive People's Party and Jamaat-e Islami.

The deliberations with all these parties consumed a total time of about 17 hours and the talks revolved around the major political issues relating to timing of the general election, status of political parties in the future political set-up, release of political prisoners, revival of political activities, establishment of a representative civilian government and lifting of martial law. The president's announcement of August 12 was also debated thoroughly and the parties availed the opportunity for expressing their views on the amendments suggested by the president in 1973 constitution.

While the six parties which met the president earlier had differed on the question of amending the 1973 constitution they remained unanimous in their demands for holding general election much earlier than the president planned, immediate release of all political prisoners, restoration of political activities and lifting of martial law as early as possible.

Apart from Khaksar Tehrik and Jamiat-e Ahl-e Hadith the other parties were also unanimous in their demands that the sanctity of the 1973 constitution should not be violated and general election in the country should be held on political party basis.

The only party that declined the president's invitation and that at the eleventh hour was Maulana Darkhwasti group of Jamiat Ulema Islam, otherwise these deliberations, according to all those who participated in them were conducted in an amicable and friendly atmosphere and the government side, they said, patiently listened to their viewpoint and sought a number of explanations from them.

Nobody expected immediate results from these talks. Political observers believe that a clear picture of the current series of these talks will only emerge when the parties included in MRD or MRD as a whole come to the conference table. The president while talking to invitees had indicated that he would also consult some of the MRD's parties like NDP [National Democratic Party], PDP [People's Democratic Party], Tehrik-i-Istiqlal and moderates of the Pakistan People's Party but how and in what way the contact with these parties will be established is not clear. Although emissary of the president has met Tehrik's chief, Air Marshal Retd. Asghar Khan, yet there has been no follow-up of this meeting.

The MRD on the other hand though still firmly holds the view that it will not hold any political talks with the present government, a division in it on this account is not ruled out as there have been persistent rumours that some of the MRD's component parties differed with this extreme line. These parties plead for a more rational approach to the problems and maintain that it will be in the interest of the country that to bar contingency issues are sorted out with the present government. They, however, agreed that the component parties should not meet the government separately, the MRD as a whole should approached, by the government — a difficult demand for the government to accede to.

The proposal for setting up an interim political government responsible for holding of general election, though has been rejected by a number of political parties yet it was still very much on the cards. Indications available in informed quarters suggest that the proposed civilian government may be set up under the umbrella of martial law headed by a person acceptable to both the sides. The government, it may be recalled, had once invited the PPP leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi to head such a government. But this time the name of retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan was being mentioned for the job. The Tehrik-e Istiqlal circles, however, maintained that the proposal could only then be of any weight when the air marshal along with other MRD leaders was released from his detention and held consultation with other MRD colleagues.

What exactly will come out from the prevailing situation though is anybody's guess yet one thing is sure that the series of political negotiations the president has initiated will lead to new avenues to end the prevailing political impasse.

THE MUSLIM on Politics, Land Reform

GF161419 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Nov 83 p 4

[Part II of article by A.H. Kardar: "Some Thoughts for the Future"]

[Text] In decentralisation of political power to the provinces and municipal corporations and councils lies the basis of an enduring relationship on the basis of equality between the provinces of Pakistan. In this political relationship also lies the key to the removal of the crisis of national identity and the provincial syndrome.

There is no difference of opinion in Pakistan that General Zia should allow political activity and hold elections. People cite the example of Iran, where even in the midst of a bloody war with Iraq, during which important areas of Iran were occupied by the Iraqi forces, elections were held with the result that the constitutional process was never put to an end. Political leaders of Pakistan are saying that there was no such emergency prevailing in Pakistan and therefore elections can be held. But the government has held on to his oft-repeated assertion that conditions are not favourable in Pakistan for holding of elections, and it has been fortunate that conditions prevailing in the country and on the borders of Pakistan have given it a long lease on life. To begin with, as a result of the revolution in Afghanistan and the subsequent takeover by the Russian army, an international situation has been created where the focus of attention of Pakistanis shifted to the Khyber Pass and to Afghanistan. The arrival of 2.5 million refugees in the border areas of Pakistan has also created favourable international conditions for the regime. In addition, the international situation has also inherently changed. The change has come about with the opening of employment opportunities in the Middle East. It is estimated that 2.5 million Pakistanis are working abroad. They are remitting nearly 3 billion dollars per annum to their dependents in Pakistan. The effect firstly is that the elements who are abroad and are seeking employment were those very deprived people who were instruments of a politician with emotive approach and slogans for bettering their lot. Their attention is diverted to the Middle East and the opportunities for gainful employment offered by that region. The second effect is that their dependents numbering 8 million out of a population of 80 million are receiving substantial amounts for their maintenance and for the education of their children. In a country where, according to Mr Fakr Imam, the federal minister of local government and rural development, about 30 million people, that is about 36 percent of the population, live below the poverty line, this is substantial change for a large segment of the population.

Even given these favourable circumstances to the regime's continuance in power, it is necessary for it to hold the elections because at the point of time this is the general demand of the people of Pakistan. Also it has to legitimatise itself. The question is whether the regime will hold the elections and obtain favourable results which will bring those parties and individuals into the assemblies who would not be motivated by vengeful approach.

Our leaders have been talking of bringing about revolutionary changes. Some talk about Islamic revolution, some about economic, others about industrial and yet quite a few of agricultural revolution. It is hardly realised that revolution is not something simple as a way of righting wrongs. Rather it is a programme of instant social transformation and re-birth. When our leaders give so little attention to social transformation it is a matter of conjecture whether they will be capable of planning for the rebirth of the nation.

Social transformation will call for a bold and courageous leadership ready to make a departure from putting together a manifesto to suit all group-interests. One gets the gut feeling that they are shy of hurting entrenched interest. For instance, it is not unknown to our leaders that economic stranglehold over the rural sector resides in the same old hands that enjoyed this privilege under the colonial system. We inherited it a independence and there is no departure from the familiar ring of names enjoying socio-economic control of the rural life. We come across the same old names in political parties. The landed class continue to enjoy prominent offices in all major political parties.

Political parties tend to compromise with the waderas [large landowners] in order to make an initial break-through in capturing seats. It happened to the PPP. Its hierarchy thought that the waderas contained the party. So much so that in the province of Sind, waderas managed to avoid imposition of land reforms. This happened with the approval of the party's leadership.

In other words, these alliances usually end up by subversion of party manifesto. When concessions are granted to the rich, the middle class section of party membership also strives for the status-quo. In this state of malady to get rich, the lower tiers of the party also follows the fashion and reaps benefits. This last straw breaks the camel's back.

Even in the so-called progressive parties, waderas attain greater local importance. In the circumstances, waderas attain greater local importance. [as published] Their indispensibility established at national level further advances their claims to leadership of the rural sector. Through their continued control over the economy of this important sector, backing of the administration and the ability to manipulate national policies as well as the capacity to subvert land reforms, they not only retain power in their areas but forge new alliances with their kind and the bureaucracy, which further strengthens their position. One cannot help reaching the conclusion that so long as political parties lend themselves to manipulation to landed classes, programmes of reforms in the rural sector will never see the light of day. Who has not heard nawabs resisting spread of education for fear of the awakening it will bring in the rural population? Parties dependent on their support cannot be sure of their sincerity to their reformist stance. They will cheat and subvert their manifestos. Pragmatic approach of parties to the enlistment of waderas is bound to end in disaster and disgrace, especially for the forward block of progressive parties.

In spite of all the revolutionary slogans that we have heard over the last decade we have not been able to modernise the rural sector. It is so because slogans are raised for catching votes. The other day the slogans "Land to the Tillers" was once again heard from quarters which have not so far been touched by land reforms. In all sincerity those sponsoring such slogans should first of all dispossess themselves of their lands, distribute them of their own volition to the tillers and then require their colleagues and political associates and supporters to do likewise. The plea that the law when framed will apply uniformly does not hold water. The way to possession of political power is through dispossession, especially for those who get out of breath and shed tears raising the cause of the poor. The voters should require them to give land to the tillers.

If our leaders are real revolutionaries, then they should follow the example of revolutionaries. In other words, the transformation they wish voters to believe will take place if they are voted into power, must start before the race for the capture of power. The question is: Will they set it, will they be reborn so that they can give rebirth to this nation? Only by effecting transformation within themselves can our leaders make us believe that they would, when in power, be able to introduce it nationwide.

To my way of thinking a political party with the vision and ability to establish a political base in the rural sector will play a very important role in effecting a fundamental change in national politics. For the rural sector will once again play the leading role in bringing into power or denying power to our leaders. They were fooled, they may be fooled once again by catchy slogans. But the time is not far off when either the leaders will have to dispossess themselves and join the rank and file or they will meet the fate of being dispossessed at the hands of the dispossessed millions.

BANGLADESH

Queen Elizabeth, Chowdhury Speak at Banquet

BK161059 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Queen Elizabeth has said she was most impressed by the way the appalling problems are being overcome in Bangladesh. Speaking at a state banquet given in her honor by President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury at Bangabhavan in Dhaka last night, the queen said the evident determination with which the immense task of developments is being undertaken and the amount that has already been accomplished must be a great encouragement for the future. The queen expressed her satisfaction that Bangladesh is making a good progress toward the establishment of appropriate constitutional arrangement based on principles of justice and freedom and dignity of individual.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury has reiterated Bangladesh's endeavor to play a moderate, positive, and constructive role to bring about a harmonious international environment. He said his country was pursuing an independent foreign policy based on her abiding commitments to the objectives and principles of the UN Charter, the Commonwealth, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the Nonaligned Movement.

Queen Leaves for Delhi

BK170705 Dhaka BSS in English 0650 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Nov 17, BSS — Queen Elizabeth II left here this morning for New Delhi concluding her four-day state visit to Bangladesh.

The queen who was accompanied by Prince Philip were [as received] warmly seen off at the Zia international airport by President of the Republic Ahsanuddin Chowdhury, Begum Chowdhury, President of the Council of Ministers, Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad and Begum Ershad.

The British monarch who arrived Dhaka Monday night was also given a formal send off that included a guard of honour and 21 gun salute.

Delhi Reports Reaction to Ershad Speech

BK151436 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 15 Nov 83

[Text] Major political parties in Bangladesh have opposed Lieutenant General Ershad's decision to hold presidential elections before the parliamentary election in that country. The two main alliances of opposition parties have said that this decision does not reflect the people's desire to hold parliamentary election and the withdrawal of martial law.

All-India Radio's Dhaka correspondent reports the opposition parties have, however, expressed their happiness over the lifting of the ban on open political activities in Bangladesh. They described it as a partial victory for them.

NEPAL

Foreign Ministry on Turkish Cypriot Declaration

BK161531 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The unilateral declaration of independence by Turkish Cypriots is an unfortunate move [words indistinct] under the tense situation in the area, the Foreign Ministry stated in a press release issued today. His majesty's government is strongly opposed to both internal and external tendency which undermines the sovereignty and (?independence) of a nation. It was in this spirit and also in the interest of the future of the region that his majesty's government has all along [words indistinct] unequivocal support for the Cyprus problem [word indistinct] national integrity, and nonaligned character of Cyprus based on communal harmony, the press release pointed out. [Passage indistinct]

SRI LANKA

President Briefs Cabinet on Talks With Indian Envoy

BK171125 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday informed the Cabinet about details of his discussions with the special envoy of the Indian prime minister, Mr G. Parthasarathy. He said that these proposals would be discussed with the Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, during the course of his visit to that country for the Commonwealth conference later this month.

Mr Jayewardene said that any proposal made would have to be discussed in all-party conference. The approval of the constituent elements of the various parties would have to be obtained. Any proposal, he added, would have be on the basis of a ratification by the Tamil Unity Liberation Front [TULF] party convention that they accepted the unity of the country. They would have to give up their demand for a separate state. He added that that the Government of India and the TULF would also have to agree to support the government in its efforts to eradicate terrorism. Any proposal to amalgamate district councils into regional councils would have to be endorsed by a suitable referendum.

Israeli Bombing of Ba'alabakk Area Reported

LD162139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, as a continuation of crushing the resistance of the Muslim revolutionaries in Lebanon, at 0920 Beirut time today, four bombers of the Zionist regime bombed the Jantah and Sha'rah districts in the city of Ba'alabaak. The bombing of the Ba'alabakk region — which is populated by the Lebanese Shi'ites and the deprived and an important center for the Muslim revolutionaries' resistance to Zionist acts of aggression — has taken place following repeated reconnaissance by aircraft of the aggressive forces that are daily flying over Lebanese territory.

The radio of the Lebanese Phalangists was the first source to announce this news when it said: In the course of the bombing, dense smoke rose from the bombed regions. No report has reached us yet regarding the extent of the casualities and damage caused by the latest Zionist crime. On the other hand, a military spokesman of the regime occupying Jerusalem, in announcing this aerial aggression and the bombing of parts of Ba'alabakk, emphasized that the aim behind this bombing was the revolutionaries supporting Iran's Islamic Revolution.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,544

LD161744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,544 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday on every front of the imposed war, the victorious combatants of Islam, while defending their own positions, continued the battle against the Saddamists. Exchange of artillery and other heavy arms fire continued on most fronts, being more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab regions. The warriors of Islam, on every front, while continuing the task of consolidating their defensive positions and the regions under their protection, opened long-range artillery fire on positions, supply routes, and enemy units carrying out troop movements, and inflicted some losses on the Iraqi forces. The warriors of Islam, on each front, while destroying enemy positions, foiled and crushed all patrol operations of the Saddamists.

Our vigilant observers discovered operations of two Iraqi patrol groups which were trying to penetrate the defensive lines of our warriors on one of the southern fronts. Thanks to the fire of our warriors, the enemy patrol groups suffered losses and casualties and were forced to flee. On another southern front, our patrol forces, through their bravery and capability to penetrate the enemy defense lines, succeeded in capturing some arms and ammunition and communication devices of the Iraqi forces.

This week, the brave forces of the irregular warfare dispatched patrol groups deep inside the enemy's defensive positions. These patrol groups succeeded in planting mines on several supply routes of the Iraqi forces on the other side of the border, carrying out raids on several Iraqi bases and garrisons, setting ablaze and destroying several enemy vehicles, and killing over 40 blasphemous Saddamist troops. After completing their mission, all members of these patrol groups returned to their bases safely.

Thanks to the return fire of the Gendarmerie warriors on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts on positions and fortifications of the enemy, enemy fire was silenced, over 10 heavy and light weapons emplacements of the Saddamist mercenaries were destroyed and a number of their troops were either killed or wounded.

The city of Abadan yesterday came under the long-range artillery fire of the enemy; several houses were damaged.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Majlis Speaker Meets With Clergy, Joint Staff

LD171012 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA — "The ulema should be pioneers in performing social services, and contrary to the propaganda of the enemies of the revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran greatly relies on the unity and cooperation among Muslims of all persuasions in Iran. It also rejects such divisive issues as were imposed on the Islamic society in the past."

Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said this here today in a meeting with the Sunni ulema of Gonbad city, Mazandaran Province.

The Majlis speaker in his speech to Sunni ulema further said that wherever Islam and Ulema exist, prosperity prevails and there existed no difference between Shi'a and Sunni. He expressed the hope that the strong bonds of brotherhood among the Sunni and Shi'a as a result of their living side-by-side, would serve as a model for the rest of the Islamic world.

Prior to his speech the Majlis speaker was presented reports on the various issues prevailing in the region by the governor of the city and the ulema.

In another development today, the board of managing directors of the Chamber of Commerce of Iran presented reports on the import and export situation of the country to the Majlis speaker.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani commenting on the issue said that cooperation and coordination should exist between the government and the private sector and called on the private sector to adhere to the regulations in order not to prevent the government from taking over control of the affairs.

Also Hojjat ol-Eslam Esfahani, in a meeting with Speaker Rafsanjani presented a sum of 1,100,000 rials (dlrs. 12,970) as aids from the people in East Tehran to be utilised for the war fronts.

Meanwhile, Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative in the Supreme Defence Council

(SDC) today attended a meeting at the Joint Staff headquarters of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces.

In this meeting the chief of the Joint Staff General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad briefed Imam's SDC representative on prevailing military issues, to which Rafsanjani gave counsel.

Officials of the Joint Staff headquarters also briefed the Majlis speaker on activities of the headquarters, to which he stressed on the following up of the reports presented. [sentenced as received]

More on Joint Staff

LD161742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis and the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, this morning attended a meeting of the economic council of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The meeting was also attended by the chief of the Joint Staff and the chiefs of the departments of the Joint Staff. The chief of the Joint Staff raised military problems, after which the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council issued necessary guidelines with regard to each of the issues raised. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then attended the imam's advisory bureau at the Joint Staff building, met the personnel of the bureau, reviewed the problems raised, and emphasized the need for following up these issues.

Commander Censured for Val-Fajr IV Failure

GF131326 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Failure of Khomeyni's Val-Fajr operation and the loss of more than 30,000 who were killed in this operation has created a deep rift and differences among the commanders of the army and of the Guards Corps. In spite of the summoning to Tehran of the commander of the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, who has been held responsible for this slaughter, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khomeyni's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, and Brigadier General Zahirnezhad went to Jamaran to meet with Khomeyni and explain the failure of the Val-Fajr IV operation. Although no report has been released about the separate meetings between Rafsanjani and Zahirnezhad and the meeting with Khomeyni, informed sources believe that the differences in views between the army commanders and Guards Corps authorities on the question of starting the Val-Fajr operation was discussed.

In spite of the opposition of the army commanders, the Val-Fajr IV operation, which resulted in failure and the loss of more than 30,000 was launched by the Guards Corps.

A Free Voice of Iran correspondent citing reliable sources, reports that Khomeyni's Val-Fajr IV operation, in spite of the opposition of the army commanders and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, was launched on the initiative of the Guards Corps and with the approval of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. The failure of this operation, which was one of the costliest operations launched by the Islamic Republic in the past 3 years of war with Iraq, has caused wide-scale reactions in the leadership of the Islamic Republic.

Because of this, Defense Minister Colonel Salimi was reputed to have gone to Reza'iyeh and Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters to look into the causes of the failure of the Val-Fajr operation. After his return and the submission of his report to the Supreme Defense Council, the commander of the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters was held responsible for the failure of the operation and was summoned to Tehran. The commander of the Guards Corps operational headquarters, who had ordered the launching of the Val-Fajr IV operation with the approval of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, after his arrival in Tehran, called on Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. Informed sources believe this morning's meetings between Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Brigadier Zahirnezhad, and Khomeyni will have great affect on the future of the war and on the command of future operations, and possibly Khamene'i's influence in the Supreme Defense Council will suffer.

President on Clergy's Role, Majlis Elections

LD161234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] A group of Tehran clergymen met this morning with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. At the meeting, the president stressed the importance of the forthcoming elections to the Islamic Consultative Assembly: Because these elections are being held in a proper manner and are general elections, they are of particular importance. For this reason, you are witnessing that, even though it is a long time to the election date, the enemies of the revolution have started their activities, and their only aim is to discredit the elections issue in some way or another. At present, our most important policy is that the holding of the elections should be extensively welcomed by all strata of the people because, basically, the Majlis, as an establishment that must save the other state institutions from any difficulty or disorder, is of particular importance.

Referring to the fact that the two strata of the clergy and committed experts must be used by the Majlis, Khamene'i added: Since the Majlis is the designer of all the country's issues, naturally, clergymen who are the people's trustees and whose presence in the Majlis would assure people about observing Islamic rituals, as well as experts whose views could be sought on the country's general plans, should be used. All this is so that the people's work can be carried out in the easiest and most desirable way possible. In any case, the main criterion is the people's choice.

Referring to the issue of unity and coordination in the holding of the elections in the best way possible, the president said: There must be unity in this matter; if there is a difference it should not lead to discord. The important issue is that with divine help we must hold general and realistic elections and make a logical and accurate choice.

In conclusion, Khamene'i addressed the clergy as people's trustees and those who reply to people's questions: All of you must

be familiar with state issues such as the government policies vis-a-vis production, imports, the bottlenecks in distribution, and the issues which deal with people's everyday work so that you will be able to inform them of the situation. Clergymen are the eloquent spokesmen of the revolution; they are more in touch with the people and they must be active in answering their questions.

Ulema Meeting To Formulate Policies Announced

LD171010 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Qom, Nov. 16, IRNA — A five-day meeting of prominent ulema and ranking officials will commence work here Thursday afternoon to formulate domestic and foreign policies of the Islamic Republic as well as necessary guidelines for the future Majlis elections.

In an announcement Wednesday, the Islamic information office of the Qom theological school said that the gathering will be held at Qom's A'zam mosque.

At this crucial juncture of time, the announcement read, the Islamic Republic and revolution were facing a series of important domestic and foreign issues, for which further coordination and preparedness were needed.

The session will be opened with statements of Ayatollah Meshkini, president of the Assembly of Experts, and will be followed by speeches of prominent ulema and high-ranking officials.

Musavi Chairs 16 November Cabinet Session

LD161155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] The Cabinet met this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

During this meeting, current affairs and political developments were discussed first. Minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Rafiqdust then presented a report to the Cabinet about the battlefronts of the war between truth and falsehood and about the successes achieved by the God-seeking fighters of Islam. The Cabinet then discussed the notes on the budget of the year beginning 21 March 1983, and all the notes up to note No 60 were approved.

The meeting discussed reports from the economic and finance and technical committees and other urgent resolutions. The following proposals were approved by the Cabinet: payment of 5 billion rials to the Crusade for Reconstruction for the war efforts headquarters; allocating 100 million rials to the Khuzestan Governorate for urgent expenditure in connection with the war; allocating 200 million rials for providing electricity to the border areas in Gonbad and the setting up of a large port complex in Chahbahar; allocating 600 million rials for noncash bonuses to railroad workers; allocating 200 million rials for compensating the damage to machinery of the Roads and Transportation Ministry in the west and south of the country; the payment of 400 million rials to Esfahan governorate general for urgent expenditures of Esfahan Province; allocating 22 million rials to the University of Shiraz for the expenses of the Technical and Engineering College of Kohkiluyeh and Boyrahmad; allocating 60 million rials to the Ministry of Mines and Metals for some of the expenses needed for personnel and equipment. Also, construction work on the truck terminal in Imam Khomeyni Port was entrusted to the Foundation of the Oppressed.

In today's open session [as heard] of the Cabinet, Mr Aqazadeh, minister of state in charge of executive affairs and director of the economic mobilization headquarters, presented a bill to the Cabinet on the distribution of commodities.

Commentary Warns France Against Aiding Iraq

GF131835 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The victorious step which the Islamic state has taken by closing down the French trade office, by terminating the activities of the Air France office in Tehran, and by instituting measures against French banks, is part of the price which France should pay for its policy of terrorism against the Islamic state. But it is not the whole price nor the last weapon in the Islamic state's quiver directed against French terrorism. It is merely a step on the road to inflicting major and more thorough punishment which will inevitably take place if the French Government continues to ignore the warnings and notices of the Islamic leadership.

If France wants to get more involved in aiding the Zionist regime in Baghdad — militarily and economically — and continues its hostility and terrorism against the Islamic Revolution, let it prepare itself for new blows because the initiative is in the hands of oppressed peoples and not in the hands of small rulers whose (?plots) are directed at the oppressed peoples.

Complaints Against Evin Prison, Lajvardi Cited

GF112030 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] A report says that Reza Sadr, Ebrahim Yazdi and Tavakoli representing the Nehzat-e Azadi met with Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in Qom and submitted a complete report on happenings in the Islamic Republic including the problem of the unjustified arrests taking place under the direction of Asadollah Lajvardi, chief prosecutor of Evin Prison; they asked him to intervene in this affair.

Reports received from sources close to the Nehzat-e Azadi say that, while condeming the willful doings in Evin Prison, Montazeri apologized for any interference and stated clearly that Asadollah Lajvardi is working under the direct control of Ruhollah Khomeyni and that he has created a second authority in Evin Prison.

According to the same report, some time ago Montazeri informed Ruhollah Khomeyni of these complaints and criticism and while

attacking the officials responsible in Evin Prison impressed upon him that to silence the waves of complaints of the people, Asadollah Lajvardi and his gang should be removed from service. This view was opposed by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and Islamic Majlis Speakers 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. They said if Lajvardi is dismissed it would be difficult to control the public.

It may be recalled that Asadollah Lajvardi, by misappropriating the property of the people and with the riches he has collected by means of confiscations, has set up an armed group of 800 people and has warned his opponents in the regime that if they take any steps against him or if they try to arrest and detain him,he would, from inside the prison, set fire to the (?opponents) and government authorities.

Prior to his coming to power in the Khomeyni regime, he was a carpenter and a street beggar. After the revolution, he joined the firing squad. Showing extreme fondness for executing the opponents of the regime, he was made chief prosecutor of Evin Prison by Ruhollah Khomeyni. He is crippled in one foot, therefore, he usually selects his colleagues from among the handicapped. He is a strong supporter of execution in the Islamic Republic. Since the day of his appointment to Evin Prison, he has not left the prison under any circumstances.

NVOI Assails Officials' Claims on Torture

TA170818 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Iranian People Are Waiting"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Both in our homeland and in theinternatonal arena, the ruling Islamic regime has been exposed as a bloodsucking medieval regime, and this is an indisputable fact. About 5 years have passed since the Iranian nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution. The blood that has been shed during this period by executioners of the Islamic Republic is unprecedented in our homeland's contemporary history. If, to secure the victory of our nation's glorious revolution, workers, farmers, and other toilers of Iran offered scores of thousands of martyrs, the number of our nation's martyrs and dead during almost 5 years of the Islamic regime's existence exceeds 100,000.

The painful realities concerning the inhuman treatment by the Islamic regime's despotic rulers and their executioners toward the Mojahedin, the Tudehis, and the Feda'iyan will certainly not be erased for a long time from the memory of our society's contemporary generation. As an example, pay attention to the crimes committed by executioners of the Islamic Government against the imprisoned Tudehis, these best sons of our homeland.

Through the use of physical, mental, and medical torture, the Islamic regime's executioners forced a number of imprisoned Tudehis to question their conscience, reputation, ideas, and beliefs. By means of medieval tortures they forced the patriotic Tudehis to repeat certain nonsense that up to now has been published in the form of books, periodicals, and articles by U.S., British, and Israeli espionage services, as well as by their Iranian agents, about the Iranian Tudeh Party and its proud history.

The Islamic Republic's high-ranking officials are endeavoring with utmost power to allegedly prove lack of torture and are lying outright to the noble and free Iranian nation. In this connection, Messrs Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i are stressing this point more than anyone else and are taking advantage of every opportunity, particularly of Friday prayer sermons, to allegedly prove their false claims. But the gentlemen are little aware that the Iranian people and progressive mankind do not believe their baseless claims, and for this reason they have persistently requested the issuance of an entry permit to a neutral international delegation with the aim of meeting the revolutionary prisoners and clarifying the situation.

Yes gentlemen, if as you are saying there really is no torture, why do you fear a visit by a neutral international delegation of observers with the Tudeh victims and other strugglers in the path of Iran's freedom and independence? Have the Iranian people and progressive mankind not repeatedly announced to you that your refusal to issue an entry permit to a neutral international delegation consisting of judicial figures, medical experts, and foreign correspondents to see the chained prisoners is itself tantamount to confirmation of the use of physical, mental, and medical torture by your agents against political prisoners? You are afraid to issue an entry permit to such a delegation. The extremely simple and completely practicable request of the Muslim and struggling Iranian people from the gentlemen, in particular from Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani and Khamene'i, is this: If you really have faith in your statements regarding lack of torture in the Islamic Republic's prisons, swear at the Friday prayer ceremonies by God and the noble Koran that there neither was nor is any torture in the prisons of the Islamic Republic. Here is Tehran University, here are the Friday prayer ceremonies, and here are you. Please, the Iranian people are waiting.

Khomeyni Receives Kerman Friday Prayers Leader

LD171002 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran received, here today Friday prayers leader of Kerman, Central Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Yahya Ja'afari.

Travel Ban on Khomeyni Representatives Noted

GF121536 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Two officials of the regime of the Islamic Republic have been banned from leaving Iran. According to a report by nationalist sources, Musavi-Tabrizi, chief revolution prosecutor, has ordered the prime minister's office in the Islamic Republic to refrain from issuing exit visas for Fazlollah Mahallati, Ruhollah Khomeyni's representative in the Guards Corps, and Mola'i, Khomeyni's representative in Qom and Sahr-e Ray.

Radio Iran: 2 Commanders Killed in Bukan

GF151708 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 15 Nov 83

[Text] Two more commanders of the revolution guards have been killed. News received from London indicates that in recent clashes in Bukan, two commanders of the revolution guards of the Islamic Republic, who were commanding forces at (Qarqand) and (Khoshdilan), were killed. In these clashes, 14 other members of Khomeyni's forces were killed and 20 were wounded.